

May 2005

The GRINDSTONE TRUMPETER



**The Grindstone Lake Association
is a community of neighbors
dedicated to promoting the
preservation and enjoyment
of our precious lake !**

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Mission Statement

The Grindstone Lake Association was organized:

- To Inform
- To Enhance the Community
- To Protect the Environment around Grindstone Lake

President's Message

Hi All! We are, as you know, having a late spring! However, summer is soon upon us... really, I believe it! Once again, we have many challenges, such as teaching our guests and children how to avoid the dreaded "lake itch," figuring how to keep our lake free of invasive species, restocking our muskie and walleye population, and working with the Town of Bass Lake on fire protection, crime prevention and developing the new "Grindstone Shallows" park.

This lake continues to change! Even though I am a Real Estate agent, I am truly amazed that the asking price of an undeveloped lot on this lake is nearly 400,000!!!

Plus, if you have any kind of building on it, and if it is lower elevation, the price may rise rapidly from that! Those of us who have been here 20+ years are still in shock over that! Now, of course that takes us to the question of taxes. Tax increases reflect the increased demand for services...paved roads, police protection, fire protection, ambulance services, zoning protection, clean water

protection, and many more things. Will taxes keep going up? Probably, as long as demand for services from residents, and non-residents, keep going up!

How does that all impact Grindstone Lake? It has a real, and immediate impact! This is still one of the area's premier lakes. A jewel. A gem! One of the lakes prospective buyers look at. One of the top lakes for fishing, recreation, and just all-about enjoyment in the area.

Our responsibility as property owners? To keep it as a jewel and a gem! Without you agreeing to participate, to jump in and protect it, Grindstone Lake could be an endangered lake. We do not need invasive species, rampant development, or further degradation of this lake. We ... you and I ... are who stands between this being the pure lake that it is, or a lake we do not want. Please become active with your lakeshore association!

Bruce Miller
GLA President

Legislative Budget Panel Votes to Kill Smart Growth

WHAT IS SMART GROWTH?

The 1999 Comprehensive Planning law, commonly referred to as “Smart Growth,” requires Wisconsin communities to create long range land use plans by 2010. Smart Growth was created and is supported by many groups including farmers, local governments, realtors, builders, and riparian property owners. The goal of Smart Growth is to have citizens determine how they want to their communities to grow. Comprehensive planning is an important tool that can help protect property values for landowners, lower costs for municipal services, and preserve special places for future generations.

This popular and successful law enables local governments to make locally based land use decisions about the best ways for them to grow into the future. These plans allow communities to decide where growth occurs, where treasured resources will be protected and to better plan for the cost effective delivery of services like sewer, water and schools. The law requires that the voices of private property owners and the public be heard in the plan creation process.

Many communities have already adopted Smart Growth plans and the overwhelming majority of citizens are supportive of the planning process

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

In May, the Legislature’s Joint Finance Committee voted to repeal the

state’s “Smart Growth” Comprehensive Planning law and the funding for the planning grants program. The fate of comprehensive planning in Wisconsin now rests in the hands of the full Wisconsin legislature.

To date, comprehensive planning grants have helped 743 Wisconsin communities write their own plans to guide the future development of their communities. The number of requests for these grants continues to outpace the amount of money available; this year Department of Administration received \$5.5 million in grant requests from local governments for the \$2 million available.

HOW DOES SMART GROWTH AFFECT MY LAKE?

The quality of our lakes is dependent on the health of their watersheds. Nothing has a more profound effect on our lakes than the decisions we make on how we use the land that surrounds them. Planning helps guide future decisions to preserve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and lakefront property values.

Local citizens, who best know their lakes and lake issues, must be part of land use planning decisions. Maintaining the right to an open planning process guarantees that the citizens who live on, use, and enjoy our lakes will help determine their future.

“Communities that have implemented or finished the Smart Growth process have found that it benefits

everyone,” says WAL Executive Director Peter Murray. “Good planning ensures that there is certainty about where and how development can be implemented to serve the needs of growth while protecting our natural resources. “

HOW CAN I MAKE SURE MY VOICE IS HEARD?

The WAL board of directors passed a resolution Saturday urging that the

Comprehensive Planning Law and its supporting grant program be maintained. Please contact your legislator to let them know your feelings on this important law.

The preceding information is reprinted from a recent e-mail alert sent to Wisconsin lake organizations by the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL).

Our State Representative, Gary Sherman, and our State Senator, Bob Jauch, support continuance of the Comprehensive Planning Law (Smart Growth) and grant funding initiative.

The Bass Lake Town Board supports continuance of the Comprehensive Planning Law (Smart Growth) and grant funding initiative.

The GLA recommends continuation of and funding for Smart Growth.

Your GLA Board urges you to contact Rep. Sherman, Sen. Bob Jauch and other Wisconsin legislators to express your support of Smart Growth and the accompanying grant funding.

Representative Gary Sherman **74th Assembly District**

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Room 320 West

State Capitol

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(608) 282-3674

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rep.sherman@legis.state.wi.us

Senator Bob Jauch **25th Senate District**

Madison Office

Room 130 South

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INTERNET SITE TO LOOK-UP CONTACT INFORMATION
FOR OTHER WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS

Senate <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/senhomepages.html>
Assembly <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asmhomepages.html>

Hayward Library Progress Report

The Hayward Library wants to welcome all our summer folks back to the north woods.

The building project for the new library is on track with several fund raisers planned for this summer and fall. We will have our 2nd silent auction, known as "Blues for Books" on August 27th from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Comfort Suites. Along with many auction items, we will have live music, great hors d'oeuvres and beverages. The other major event is the 2nd annual Fall Century Bike Tour, Picnic and Pumpkin Raffle. This will be held on September 25th at the site of the future library. We will also be raising funds during the Musky Festival and Fall Festival.

Remember, the library is for everyone. Come in, get your library card, and start checking out books, audio books and video tapes. Here is a list of some other activities planned for this summer:

June 16, 23, 30 & July 7 — Dragon, Dream & Daring Deeds: Hayward Library Summer Reading Program 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. This is at the Veterans Community Center across the street from the library. Live entertainment to encourage children to read. Best for ages 3 to 12 and their guardians.

July 25 — Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale, 9a.m. - 2p.m.

Some ongoing activities: 1st Thurs. of each month — Story Hour, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. for preschool children in the Hayward Library children's room. Friends of the Library Used Book Shop — Open 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

If you have any questions, or need information call the library at 634-2161.

If you wish to make a donation to the Library Building Fund, send your check to the Hayward Carnegie Library at PO Box 917, Hayward, WI 54843-0917

Ray Moeller
President, Library Board of Trustees

GLA Zone Captains

Zone 1

Indian Drive & Lake Drive to Dixon
Captain: Betty Foster

Zone 2

Poplar from Dixon to the channel
Captain: Shaun O'Meara

Zone 6

Williams Resort Rd
Captain: Bruce Paulsen

Zone 8

Cranberry Marsh to Beckwith Rd
Captain: Helen Chevrier

Captain Vacancies

Zone 3

Hwy K from the channel to Hwy E

Zone 4

Hwy E to Brossard Rd

Zone 5

Norwis Rd to Yopps

Zone 7

Goss Rd

Zone 9

Indian Drive to the Cranberry Marsh

Northwoods Beach Zone District

The Town of Bass Lake was well on its way to having a Northwoods Beach Zone District (NBZD) established. Supervisor Phil Nies has been working with the Sawyer County Zoning Committee to have such a district enacted. The NBZD would give property owners an easier time to obtain building permits. At present, most permits need a variance from Sawyer County to have a building, remodel or outbuilding constructed, due to the road setback requirements. By changing the road setbacks in the area from Grindstone Lake to Lac Courte Oreilles and from Indian Drive to Grindstone Creek, the majority of variances could be changed to just a building permit.

The Sawyer County Zoning Committee had been receptive to the proposal, but realized that there were several other areas in the county that had the same problem. The County is now considering whether to grant the NBZD, change the zoning ordinance to comply with each town's roads after town approval or some other action.

UPDATE :

Supervisor, Phil Nies, has worked up some language for an addition to Section 4.21.3 of the Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance. This section covers the setback requirements of class C highways, which are the town roads.

The paragraph is as follows:

"By resolution, a town may deem certain town roads to have lesser setbacks and said resolutions shall be filed at the Sawyer County Zoning Office."

Phil has submitted this paragraph to the Sawyer County Zoning Office for review. If it works for the zoning office, it will be submitted to the Sawyer County Zoning Committee. If approved, it would eliminate the need for a variance request.

Helen Chevrier

Mark Your Calendars !

JULY 9, 2005	ANNUAL GLA MEETING TIME TBA SOCIAL TIME TIME TBA BASS LAKE TOWN HALL AND/OR FIRE STATION
JULY 9, 2005	ANNUAL GLA PICNIC TIME TBA BASS LAKE PARK (BEHIND BASS LAKE TOWN HALL)
AUGUST 14, 2005	BASS LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND-RAISER PICNIC
TO BE ANNOUNCED (TBA)	LAKE TRASH DIVE — PROBABLY JULY 11 OR 18

WHAT'S THAT GOING ACROSS THE LAKE?

**IT'S A BOAT ... IT'S A SNOWMOBILE ...
NO, IT'S A CABIN !!!!**

Gary and Sharon Rajkowski said goodbye to their old cabin this winter as it was towed across Grindstone Lake March 3, on the way to its new home near Danbury, Wisconsin. In its place, a new, two-story year round home has been built, occupying the old footprint of the original, seasonal cabin on William's Bay.

Gary and Sharon have been "summering" here since 1989, and now plan to make Hayward their new, permanent retirement home. When they first made plans to build a new home on the old footprint, they found a buyer for their old cabin, but couldn't transport it down their narrow roadway by conventional means. So, an alternative route across the lake was arranged.

Moving a cabin across a body of water is a meticulous process. Early in the winter, a roadway was plowed across the

ice to assist in making the ice freeze deeper. In the fall, the cabin was moved from its foundation and set on blocks and situated near the lake's edge in preparation for its winter journey.

When the ice reached the depth to safely transport the 15 ton cabin across the lake, it was attached to a tractor, and away it went at a top speed of 5 miles per hour! Any faster than that, and there was a danger of the ice buckling up in front of the cabin as it traveled along. It was reported that "the ice sang" to the cabin as it was transported. According to long-time Grindstone resident, Vic Petty, that was a good sign that the ice was distributing the weight evenly. The trip from Williams Bay to the boat landing near the cranberry bog took about one hour.

Some winter residents of Grindstone Lake were surprised to look out their windows and see a cabin moving across the lake. While the cabin was at the landing, the movers made the cabin "street ready", and it moved along conventional roadways a few days later. While it was hard for Gary and Sharon to say goodbye to their old cabin, they are looking forward to retirement in their new place in the north woods.



Moving across the frozen lake . . .

Ann Berg



... arriving safely at the west public landing

Minimize (or avoid) a City Style Lakeshore Lawn

Lake research demonstrates that runoff from most lawns introduces undesirable nutrients into your lake, especially if they are fertilized. So, if you must have a lakeshore lawn, consider avoiding fertilizers (and pesticides) and cut the grass long so as to improve absorption of rainfall and minimize runoff.

If you think you need to fertilize, have your soil tested to see if nutrients are indeed lacking. You may be buying chemicals you don't need. If you decide to fertilize, especially look at phosphorus, as this nutrient causes nuisance level algae and other aquatic plant growth.

Here is the key fact — each pound of phosphorus washed into your lake can produce up to 500 pounds of algae and aquatic plants!! For this reason, consider using zero phosphorus fertilizer (middle number *on* fertilizer bags). Zero phosphorus fertilizer is a law in some areas of Minnesota.

Additional information:

- *Rethinking Yard Care* is an 8-page brochure produced by UW-Extension that describes the impacts of runoff pollution and suggests simple best management practices.
- *Managing Leaves and Yard Trimmings* also offers helpful information.

Some of these publications can be downloaded by visiting the WAL web site and going to Lake Connection Links. If you lack Internet access, contact your local UW Extension county agent or the regional DNR lake coordinator.

Source: 2002 Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) Best Lake Practices

Grindstone Shallows Park

The new Bass Lake Township park which was approved February, 2004, is starting to take shape. The park is located on Poplar Avenue adjacent to the old boat landing.

Last fall the three dwellings on the property were razed and a parking lot was prepared across the street. The township was awarded a \$120,000 grant, much of which was applied to the mortgage for the property. The Town will also receive money if the Weston Powerline goes through. Money received from the power line must be used for recreational purposes.

Presently the Park Committee is preparing another grant application for park improvements. These include a picnic pavilion, grills, picnic tables, bathrooms and possibly an outside shower to allow bathers to rinse off after leaving the lake.

Sawyer County owns property adjacent to the parking lot and the area is being explored with the hopes of establishing hiking and snowshoe trails. Town residents Nancy and Jim Albertin have added topographical maps and have taken GPS readings for a proposed trail site. Multiuse trails such as this enhance the chance of a grant being approved. Shirley Miller, Town Clerk, has completed the grant application and it should be submitted by the end of April.

If you have any questions or comments about the park you should contact the Town Board. Phil Nies is the Bass Lake Board Member who is on the Planning Committee.

Linn Newton

We
All
Treasure
Earth's
Resources

We
All
Are
Earth's
Stewards



Those Little Black Bugs

The influx of waves of small black bugs usually signals the beginning of May. These insects are in fact "Non-biting aquatic midges" (chironomids). They are indicative of a healthy environment and clean water. I took home a bottle of the little guys last Spring and they were identified by the entomology staff at the Department of Agriculture in Pennsylvania. Ours are one of over 600 species of this type of midge. The males are also called "fuzzy bills" because of their bushy antennae.

Most species of chironomid midges are highly desirable organisms in aquatic habitats. Midges are an important food source for fish and predatory aquatic insects. Larvae "clean" the aquatic environment by consuming and recycling organic debris.

Chuck Newton

What We Know (or Don't Know) About Swimmer's Itch on Grindstone Lake

As we continue our series of articles on swimmer's itch and its impact on Grindstone Lake, let's consider what we know, and what we don't know.....yet!

WHAT CAUSES SWIMMER'S ITCH?

That we do know. A cycle with three organisms: a flatworm, a snail, and a vertebrate host are involved. Vertebrate hosts are typically ducks, geese, birds, muskrats, and mice. The problem arises when a human ends up as the mistaken vertebrate host!

WHAT CAUSES SWIMMER'S ITCH ON GRINDSTONE LAKE?

That, we're unsure about. However, on most lakes like Grindstone, the vertebrate hosts are usually ducks, because the snails that infect them live in lakes. For example, the snails that infect Canada geese, swans, and red-winged blackbirds live in marshy areas where people do not swim. So, these species are not generally the culprits in lake infestations.

DOES THAT MEAN THAT NOT ALL FLATWORMS CAN INFECT ALL VERTEBRATE HOSTS?

Correct! We know that most flatworms are specific to one species of snail, and one vertebrate host. In other words, the flatworm species that infects mallards are different than the ones infecting Canada geese, or common mergansers, or red-winged blackbirds. Plus, the water must contain the correct

snail species for the flatworm lifecycle to continue.

WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENS IN THE SWIMMER'S ITCH LIFECYCLE? DOES IT COME DIRECTLY FROM DUCKS?

The actual infestation cycle goes like this: A flatworm lives in a vertebrate host, let's say a duck. The flatworm's eggs come out in the duck's feces. The eggs hatch and the larvae that emerge wriggle around for no more than a day. These larvae do NOT cause swimmer's itch. They're looking for a specific species of snail. If, in that time, they find the right snail, they burrow in. If not, they die. Those larvae that are successful in finding the snail reemerge a month later in a different form, looking for the vertebrate host that will complete the cycle. This is the time that humans can be affected!

WHY IS THE COMMON MERGANSER SO OFTEN IMPLICATED IN STUDIES OF SWIMMER'S ITCH?

For several reasons. On lakes where swimmer's itch is an annual problem, nearly all the common mergansers are infected. Also, common mergansers carry large infestations. For example, in lakes that have been studied, the average number of larvae that hatch from a gram of common merganser feces is more than 300, and the infection rate is nearly 100%. In comparison, mallards, Canada geese, and wood ducks have only a couple of

larvae hatching from each gram of feces, and the infection rate of these species is less than 25%. Plus, the larvae coming from the common merganser is larger than other species, which may contribute to the severity of infestation in humans. However, we do NOT know for certain at this time what snail/vertebrate host species infect Grindstone Lake. It sounds like the problem is also related to the snail.

CAN WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT?

Yes. We used to place copper sulfate in lakes with swimmer's itch, because it kills snails. However, that approach is no longer recommended, because it kills everything else, too! However, snails eat algae. More algae means more snails. Conversely, snails are eaten by crayfish. Anecdotal evidence that Grindstone's algae production is increasing, while the crayfish population is decreasing may impact swimmer's itch on the lake. More study is needed.

OK, SO CAN WE DECREASE ALGAE?

Yes. The best way to decrease algae that snails feed on is by eliminating pollution. Following recommendations for healthy lakes, such as adding buffer zones, eliminating or reducing lawns, and not fertilizing lawns will all help keep the algae growth to a minimum. Some lakes associations are looking at removing their lake's phosphorus-rich waters to reduce snail populations/swimmer's itch infestations. But, it's much easier to keep pollution out of a lake than to deal with a polluted lake!

HOW CAN WE FIND OUT MORE ABOUT GRINDSTONE'S LAKE'S SWIMMER'S ITCH INFESTATIONS?

Plans are underway to seek funding

to study Grindstone Lake. Once we determine the snail and host pairs that cause swimmer's itch on our lake, recommendations and plans can be made to help minimize it.

IN THE MEANTIME, WHAT CAN WE DO?

Several things. Follow the steps to minimize exposure to swimmer's itch detailed in the last newsletter. Don't feed ducks, naturalize YOUR shoreline, eliminate fertilizer use, and minimize lawns and mowing that encourage algae growth. The fall newsletter will share other lake's experiences in eliminating and reducing swimmer's itch.

Ann Berg

GRINDSTONE LAKE T-SHIRTS

A limited number of Grindstone Lake shirts are still available. They are available in both the small crest or large logo in both green or blue.

If you wish to order one, call Linn Newton 715-634-6329, or email newtons1@centurytel.net to check on size and color.

The cost is \$12 for sizes Small – XLarge. XXL is \$14, XXXL \$15.



Evaluating Your Lake Cabin

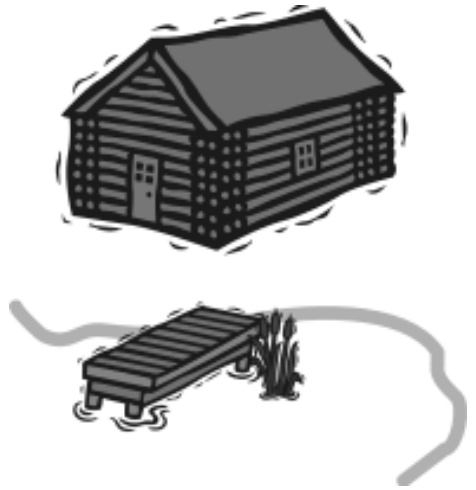
A glance at the Area Realtors property publication or the weekly ads in the Sawyer County Record confirms what each of you has suspected — property values on area lakes have increased significantly in recent years. Like most lake residents, each time a neighbor's property is listed you experience sticker-shock and wonder if the seller is in line with market value or lost their mind since you last talked with them. Later, when the property sells, rumors circulate regarding the final purchase price and you once again are astounded.

How do you absorb and process this information? Your inner self is probably in conflict. On one hand, you are pleased that you have made an investment that has appreciated. On the other hand, you are dismayed that your tax assessment and related property tax has increased as well.

I recently spent an afternoon in the Sawyer County Courthouse to research a few properties and to determine, if possible, percentage of increase in value. I was a casual researcher. Sawyer County records are computerized from 1997 to the present, so I confined myself to properties that had accessible computerized data. Data regarding initial price, current selling price, and length of time between each sale was easily gathered. If possible, I was looking for properties that changed ownership during the same or very similar time intervals. I did not consider any factors such as the lot location, size, exposure, and zoning restrictions. Nor did I consider dwelling condition or property aesthetics.

During my afternoon's work, I discovered two properties fitting into the

scope I defined. In both cases, the properties had existing dwellings at the point of each sale but how the property and dwellings might have changed is unknown to me. Each property changed



owners after three years.

Property one sold in 2000 for \$160,000. When it transferred again in 2003, the selling price was \$221,400, which reflects a 38.4% increase in value. Property two sold in 1999 for \$54,200 and then again in 2003 for \$95,500, which reflects a 76% increase in value. Greater attention to all factors would be needed to apply this information to your own property, but it concretely confirms what I had just speculated in the past. Along the way, I learned the complexities of my task, where to find information, and the limitations which inhibit data collection and evaluation.

Camille Venners

2005 Joint Effort

Grindstone Lake Association and Walleyes For Northwest Wisconsin

Fishing opener signals the start of another year of great fishing in the northwoods. Anglers ready their boats, rods and tackle hoping to catch that elusive "big one".

In years past, the Grindstone Lake Association (GLA) has worked with both the Wisconsin DNR and Walleyes for Northwest Wisconsin (WFNW) in fish crib placement programs. As fish cribs are no longer favored as a means of improving fish spawning, permits for fish cribs are not being issued.

WFNW continues to offer a matching funds opportunity, up to \$1000, to area lake associations. In the past, the GLA worked with them to maximize our funds when fish cribs were permitted.

This season, WFNW is working with the GLA to stock extended growth walleyes in Grindstone Lake. Extended growth walleyes, 5-8 inches in length, are spawned and nurtured in a fish hatchery. In the fall, they are transported and relocated in the destination lake. The combined GLA and WFNW investment (\$1000 each) will purchase approximately 1000 fish. The Lac Courte Oreilles and Whitefish Lake Associations are also participating at the same level in the WFNW matching grant program to stock extended growth walleyes.

The GLA encourages members to support WFNW through memberships as this organization uses their funds to assist Grindstone and other area lakes.

WALLEYES FOR NORTHWEST WISCONSIN

(HAYWARD AREA CHAPTER)

Walleyes for Northwest Wisconsin (WFNW) was formed by a local group of anglers in August of 1994 who wanted to give something back to the sport of walleye fishing. The main purpose of the club was, and remains to be, to act as a vehicle for walleye enthusiasts to join together to protect and enhance the opportunity to catch walleyes now and in the future. Our initial charter objectives were to:

1. promote a high quality walleye fishery in area lakes;
2. protect and enhance water environment quality and to maintain and improve habitat;
3. work with Tribal, and State agencies, area Lake Associations and area Resort Associations to maintain and improve area lake walleye populations; and
4. encourage the importance of catch and release programs.

Early on the emphasis was on promoting the raising and stocking of extended growth walleyes into area lakes. This effort guided by the DNR was very successful. In addition to these efforts, which will be on going, our recent efforts have been involved with the improvement of walleye habitat. Over the past 4 years, in conjunction with the DNR and various lake associations we have established a matching grant program whereby WFNW will match lake association funds for the purchase of fish cribs, stocking and water quality efforts. To this end, over the past several years, WFNW has provided the following support:

- \$ 24,500 to Grindstone, Courte Oreilles, Round, Teal, Windigo, Whitefish, Spider, Tiger Cat, Nelson and Sand lake associations for assistance with stocking programs and for the purchase of fish cribs
- \$ 14,000 the Sawyer County fish habitat program
- \$ 1,000 to Wisconsin Association of Lakes Clean Water Fund
- \$ 500 to the Spooner Hatchery towards the purchase of a special microscope
- \$ 3,000 to Fishing Has No Boundries
- \$ 3,000 in support of Kids Fishing Day
- \$ 2,000 Courte Oreilles tribal hatchery for hatchery expansion purposes
- \$ 1,000 Round Lake Milfoil Program
- \$ 2,500 Chippewa Flowage Crane Lake Aeration Program
- \$ 1,000 Chippewa Flowage Big Island purchase

In order to continue with these programs we must expand our membership base which currently stands at approx 80. The majority of our funds are raised through our membership fees and through sponsorship of an annual family ice fishing contest which is held on Lac Courte Oreilles each year. Although this has been generally quite successful and in fact has supported the programs noted above, more members and a greater turnout at our ice fishing contest are needed. Annual membership fees are \$35 (household), \$25 (individual) and \$10 (student). Anyone interested in joining our organization should include the following membership information, along with your check, to the address noted below:

Return To:
Walleyes For Northwest Wisconsin
PO Box 13249
Hayward, WI. 54843

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tele. No: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Lake Affiliation: _____

Grindstone Trumpeter

Grindstone Lake Association

PO Box 292

Hayward, WI 54843